

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCAR 01500 091218Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----031660 100306Z /66

R 091100Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8314
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1500

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: US UR RO CH KN VM XE
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU TRIPS TO CHINA, KOREA AND U.S.: A ROMANIAN
ROLE IN NORTHEAST ASIA?

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 1496 (B) BUCHAREST 1224

1. RCP CC DAILY SCINTEIA MARCH 9 FRONTPAGES REPORT OF CEAUSESCU'S MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH KIM II SUNG'S PERSONAL EMISSARY KIM YONG NAM, KLP SECRETARY AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE MEMBER. KIM CARRIED "MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP" TO CEAUSESCU, WHO FOR HIS PART EXPRESSED "FULL SOLIDARITY" OF ROMANIAN PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WITH "LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF BROTHERLY KOREAN PEOPLE FOR PEACEFUL, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC REUNIFICATION OF FATHERLAND." ROMANIA HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED KIM II SUNG'S "CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES" TOWARD THIS END, HE SAID. REPORT ALSO REGISTERS MUTUAL SATISFACTION WITH "ASCENDING DEVELOPMENT" OF RELATIONS, AND "STRESSES" THAT "ROMANIAN-KOREAN MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL HAVE BEEN EVENTSSRF EXTRAORDINARY SIGNIFICANCE IN CHRONICLE OF RELATIONS OF TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PARTIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES, OPENING UP MOST FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR EXTENSION AND DEEPENING OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN ROMANIA AND PDRK IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC AREAS, IN INTERESTS OF TWO PEOPLES AND OF GENERAL CAUSE OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM."

2. REF B NOTED REPORTS CIRCULATING IN BUCHAREST THAT CEAUSESCU

WOULD VISIT PEKING IN MARCH OR APRIL. BRITISH NOW REPORT THAT DURING FEBRUARY 24-26 VISIT TO BUCHAREST OF FCO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY SIR MICHAEL PALLISSER, HE WAS TOLD BY RCP CC FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY STAFAN ANDREI THAT CEAUSESCU WOULD VISIT CHINA, KOREA "AND OTHER ASIAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES" LATER THIS YEAR, AND IN MARCH 8 CALL, HUNGARIAN DCM TOLD US HE UNDERSTOOD CEAUSESCU WOULD VISIT CHINA IN MAY. AS WE READ TODAY'S SCINTEIA REPORT, KIM YONG NAM'S VISIT IS OBVIOUS SETUP FOR KOREA TRIP, AND GIVEN COMMUNIST PREFERENCE FOR SHORT PUBLIC LEAD TIMES, WE WOULD EXPECT TRIP TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE APRIL OR MAY.

3. WHEN HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON, CEAUSESCU WILL THEREFORE HAVE A VISIT TO PEKING AND PYONGYANG ON HIS IMMEDIATE AGENDA. ROMANIANS ARE WORRIED THAT SPATE OF TENSION SITUATIONS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE WILL DEVELOP TOWARD EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION WHICH CAN ONLY BE REDUCED AT SOME COST TO THEIR INTERESTS, AND THEY ARE CURRENTLY EMBARKED ON VARIETY OF EFFORTS TO INSERT THEMSELVES INTO ACTION IN CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION, BRAVING WHATEVER SOVIET DISPLEASURE COMES THEIR WAY IN PROCESS. CEAUSESCU'S MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND SADAT IN AUGUST AND OCTOBER HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH SADAT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM; ROMANIA HAS TAKEN AN INDIVIDUAL POSITION IN CSCE, AND IS CURRENTLY BLOCKING SOVIET EFFORT TO PRESENT JOINT WARSAW PACT "NEUTRON BOMB" INITIATION IN CCD; AND ONE REPORT (REF B) HINTS AT WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY TROOP TO ANY "PURELY UN" PEACE-CONFIDENTIAL

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KEEPING FORCE IN NAMIBIA. ROMANIANS CLEARLY CONSIDER NORTHEAST ASIA POTENTIAL FLASHPOINT, AND WE SUSPECT THEY WILL BE AMENABLE TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE FOR THEMSELVES THEY CAN TINKER OUT WITH PARTIES INVOLVED. IMMINENCE OF TRIP PRACTICALLY ASSURES THAT PROBLEMS OF AREA WILL BE ON CEAUSESCU'S AGENDA IN WASHINGTON.

4. NORTHEAST ASIA IS WORLD AWAY FROM US, BUT FROM TEXT OF SCINTEIA REPORT AND WHAT LITTLE OTHER INFO AVAILABLE HERE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT ROMANIAN SUPPORT OF DPRK POSITIONS IS CAREFULLY ENOUGH HEDGED TO PERMIT CEAUSESCU TO CARRY MESSAGES TO AND FROM THIS PART OF WORLD TOO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN PREPARATIONS FOR CEAUSESCU VISIT, WE SUGGEST PRESIDENT BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO SOUNDINGS FROM CEAUSESCU DESIGNED TO ELICIT SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT HE MIGHT TELL NORTH KOREANS ON OUR BEHALF.
AGGREY

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037017 101019Z /14

R 091300Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8318

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1500

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW, AMCONSUL
HONG KONG, AMEMBASSY TOKYO, USLO PEKING 9 MARCH BEING REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:
C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1500

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, US, UR, RO, CH, KN, VM, XE, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE), (KIM II SUNG)
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